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Sen. Stamas resolution addressing mineral and surface rights issues approved by committee

LANSING – State Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, announced that a resolution urging federal and state departments and agencies to work together was reported out of committee on Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Tuesday.

“Mineral and surface rights should not be divided,” said Stamas, sponsor of the resolution. “We need to remove the obstacles that stand in our way so we can better protect the pristine pieces of land throughout our state. We need both federal and state officials working together; otherwise one hand doesn’t know what the other one is doing.”

Senate Concurrent Resolution 35 urges federal agencies to work with Michigan officials to exchange property where appropriate to align the ownership of mineral and surface rights on state and federal lands in Michigan.

There has been significant concern expressed about both the state and federal government’s roles in managing lands that have severed mineral rights.

Michigan has jurisdiction over both mineral and surface rights on 3.8 million acres of land and mineral rights alone on another 2.1 million acres.

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